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Title: Need to open a Central University in Darjeeling, West Bengal.

SHRI D. NARBULA (DARJEELING): The existing affiliated colleges in the Darjeeling hills follow the courses and syllabi designed by the North Bengal University, which are not mountain-specific or relevant to the needs of the hills. Such conventional education is mostly unemployable and unproductive. Due to lack of modern teaching and research-intensive University of its own, the Darjeeling hills face the problems to get the skilled-qualified and trained manpower in the specific field relevant to the hills. The Darjeeling hills are one of the hot-spots of biodiversity and are very rich in bio resources. Studies on bioresources management, biodiversity, and biotechnology for the developmental activities, the study on cultural heritage of diverse ethnic communities, minor and endangered languages in the Darjeeling hills are lagging behind due to lack of such higher learning institutes. There is a strong and consensus demand of the hill people to have a separate Central University to be set up by the present UPA Government. I humbly request that if all hill regions of North-East India can have one or more Universities, why not a single University is set up in the Darjeeling hills? This is a political mileage and common demand of the hill people. The Government of West Bengal is proposing to open a Central University in North Bengal which was learnt from the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister stating that a Central University shall be opened at Jalpaiguri. So I urge upon the UPA Government to open a Central University at Darjeeling Hills which will fulfill the aspiration and demands of the peoples of the Hills.